

Message Text

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54

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 L-03 DLOS-06 EB-11 SCI-06 INT-08

COME-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02 DRC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSF-04 USIE-00 /079 W

----- 016105

O R 091455Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5994

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2545

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TPHY, PBUR, XN

SUBJECT: DRILLSHIP GLOMAR CHALLENGER

REF: A. STATE 58485, B. BUENOS AIRES 2524

1. SCIATT RECEIVED CALL AT 10 P.M. LOCAL APRIL 8 FROM FRANK C. MCKERNAN OF SCRIPPS, DEPUTY PROJECT MGR, DEEP SEA DRILLING PROGRAM, LA JOLLA, CALIF (TEL 714-453-2000 EXT 2251; RES 714-755-8819) INFORMING HIM THAT CHALLENGER HAD LOST 1000 FT OF DRILL STRING AND HAD ENTERED BAHIA AGUIRRE ON SOUTHERN COAST OF TIERRA DEL FUEGO. AS WE GET STORY, SHIP WAS TOLD BY LOCAL PREFECTURA (COAST GUARD, PART OF ARGENTINE NAVY) TO SEEK PERMISSION TO ENTER BAY; LATER SUCH PERMISSION WAS GRANTED. SUBSEQUENTLY, SHIP WAS TOLD TO REMAIN AT ANCHOR BECAUSE OF "BREAKING ARGENTINE SEA BOUNDARY LAW". SCRIPPS SOUGHT EMBASSY ASSISTANCE; WE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO MATTER AND DO WHAT WE COULD, BUT URGED SCRIPPS TO CONTACT WASHINGTON (NSF AND DEPT).

2. EARLY APRIL 9, SCIATT CALLED BY LOCAL OFFICE OF SHI'S AGENT (PATAGONIA) WHICH RELAYED MESSAGE FROM USHUAIA THAT SHIP
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HAD LOST ITS DRILL WITHIN 200 MILES OF ARGENTINA. EXACT

PRESENT LOCATION OF SHIP NOT WELL DEFINED IN THIS REPORT, BUT WE WERE TOLD THAT A "PILOT" WAS GOING ABOARD AND THAT THE PREFECTURA DID NOT RPT NOT HAVE THE CHALLENGER "REGISTERED AS A SCIENTIFIC SHIP"; HENCE IT WAS NOT ALLOWED TO WORK WITHIN 200 MILES OF ARGENTINA. THE AGENT ASKED THE EMBASSY TO NOTIFY THE FONOFF THAT CHALLENGER IS A SCIENTIFIC SHIP SO THAT THIS COULD BE PASSED ON VIA THE PREFECTURA IN BUENOS AIRES TO THE PREFECTURA IN USHUAIA.

3. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO DIRECT COMMUNICATION FROM GOA ON THIS MATTER (AS OF 10:30 A.M. LOCAL APRIL 9), SINCE THE ROCCATAGLIATA-WILCOX TELCON REPORTED REFTEL B.

4. EMBASSY DOES NOT RPT NOT FEEL IT SHOULD APPROACH GOA, SINCE SEEKING AUTHORIZATION OR REGISTRY TANTAMOUNT TO ACQUIESCENCE OF GOA 200-MILE SEA CLAIM. ON OTHER HAND, WE CANNOT SEE WHY USG SHOULD NECESSARILY OBJECT AT THIS POINT SHOULD SCRIPPS OR GLOBAL MARINE DECIDE TO SEEK SUCH PERMISSION DIRECTLY WITH GOA, EITHER IN BUENOS AIRES OR VIA ARGENTINE EMB/WASHINGTON. AS PRACTICAL MATTER, HOWEVER, THERE NO REASON TO EXPECT QUICK APPROVAL, AND WE GATHER THAT WEATHER CONDITIONS IN DRILLING AREA ALREADY ARE QUITE SEVERE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED. URGE DEPT COORDINATE URGENTLY WITH NSF AND SCRIPPS AND ADVISE.
HILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIP DETENTION, RESEARCH, TERRITORIAL WATERS, OFFSHORE DRILLING, GLOMAR CHALLENGER, TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 09 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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